

MASTER OF
KUNG FU

MARVEL COMICS GROUP™



31
AUG
02449

THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU

MARTIAL-ARTS
MAGIC
FROM THE HOUSE
OF IDEAS!

IF I CANNOT
REGAIN MY BALANCE,
THIS WAR MACHINE
WILL DESTROY ME!

THEN YOU'RE
FINISHED!
CHINA-MAN! YOUR
KUNG FU SKILLS
CAN'T HELP
YOU NOW!

YOU
MUST
READ

SNOWBUSTER!

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **MASTER OF KUNG FU!**™

The CONCLUSION

PRODUCED & DIRECTED BY
DOUG MOENCH
and
PAUL GULACY

DAN ADKINS..... Inker
KAREN MANTLO.... Letterer
JANICE COHEN..... Colorist
LEN WEIN..... Front Office



"I HAVE AGREED TO AID **SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH** IN HIS UNDERCOVER ASSAULT ON THE **FORTRESS COMPLEX** OWNED BY **CARLTON VELCRO**. LOCATED ON A GROTTO WITHIN THE **GULF OF LIONS, SOUTHERN FRANCE**, VELCRO'S **FORTRESS** SERVED AS A **STOREHOUSE** FOR THE LARGEST SUPPLY OF **NARCOTICS** IN EUROPE.

"MY COMPANIONS ARE AGENTS **JAMES RESTON** AND **BLACK JACK TARR**. TOGETHER, OUR MISSION WAS TO **DESTROY** VELCRO'S NARCOTICS... BUT THAT WAS **BEFORE** WE DISCOVERED THIS SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER **BELOW** THE **FORTRESS**."

I DON'T BELIEVE IT, TARR--! THE HEROIN WAS JUST A **FRONT**--A SCREEN TO COVER UP A SOPHISTICATED ARSENAL OF **NUCLEAR MISSILES**--!

A **FRONT** ALL RIGHT-- BUT ALSO VELCRO'S MEANS OF RAISIN' THE **MONEY** FOR ALL THIS...

THE BLOODY FOOL WANTS TO **CONQUER THE WORLD**.

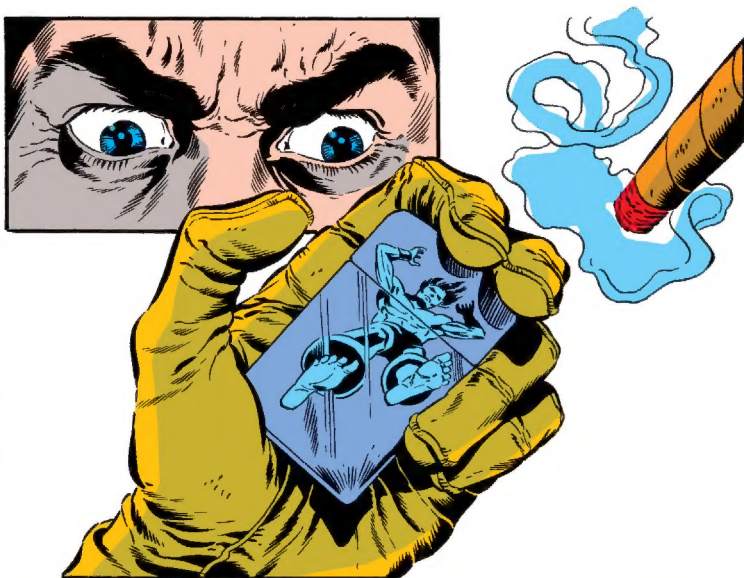
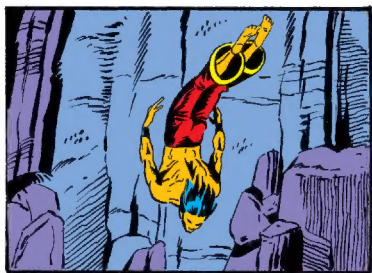
WE HAVEN'T EVEN GOT A **SLINGSHOT** HOW THE DEVIL ARE WE GOING TO BUST OPEN AN OPERATION LIKE **THIS**--?

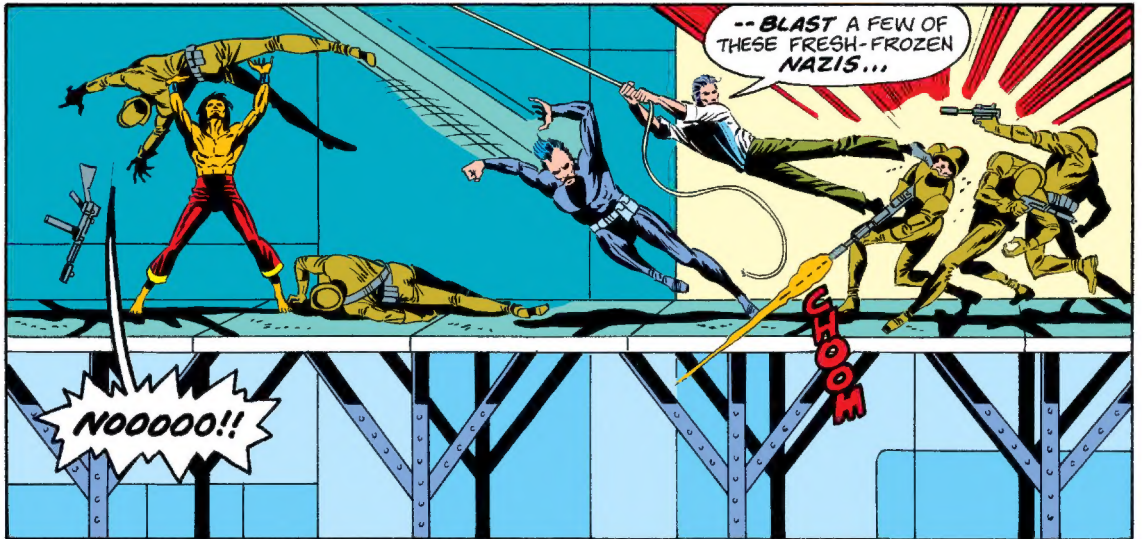
YOU THINK BIGGER THAN **ME**, RESTON. I'M STILL STUCK ON HOW WE'RE GONNA GET **OUT** OF HERE.

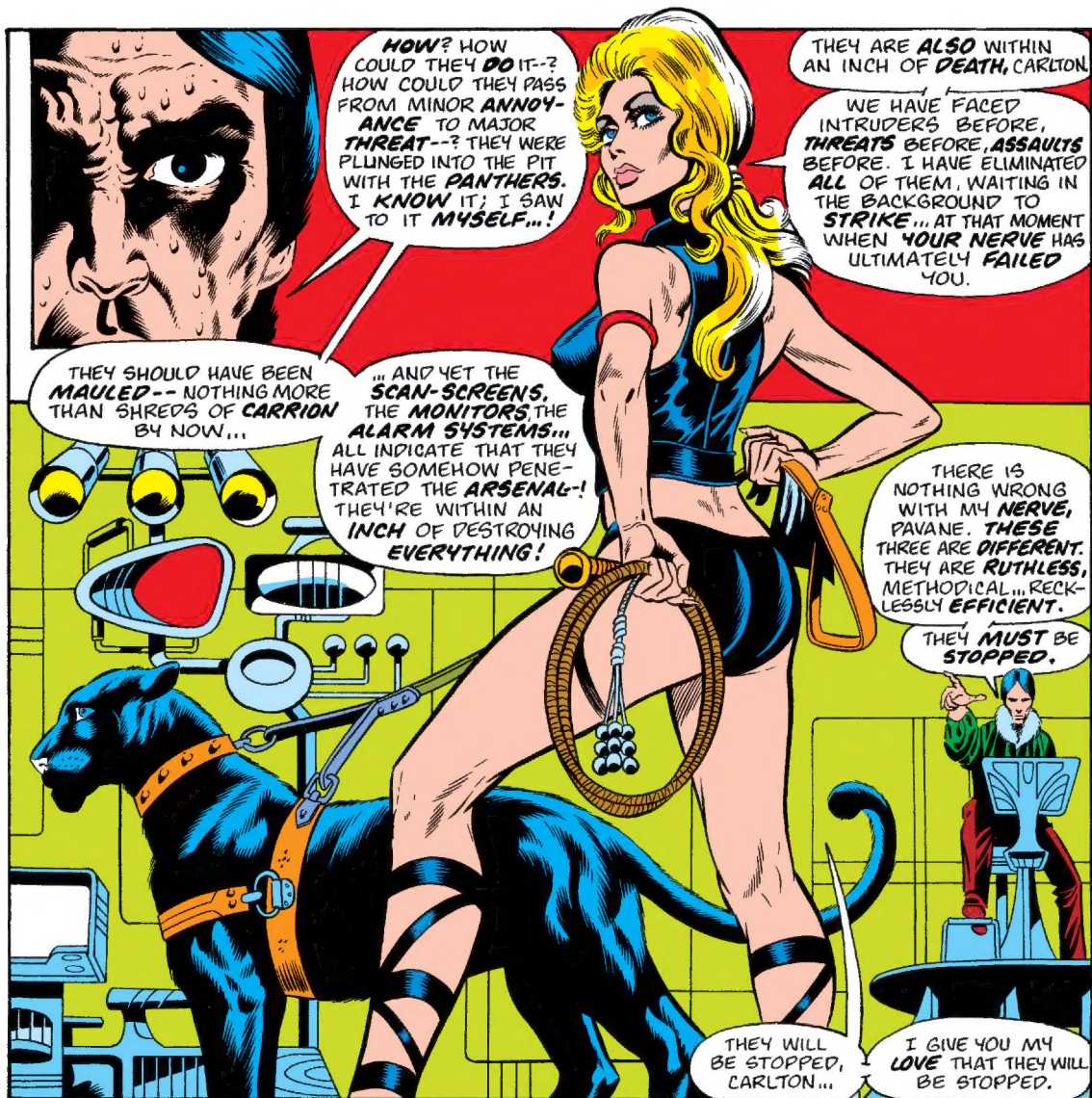
THERE IS NO WAY OUT BUT **DOWN**.

USE THIS ROPE TO **FOLLOW** ME.

FOLLOW YOU? WHAT THE DEVIL--?







HOW? HOW
COULD THEY DO IT--?
HOW COULD THEY PASS
FROM MINOR ANNOY-
ANCE TO MAJOR
THREAT--? THEY WERE
PLUNGED INTO THE PIT
WITH THE PANTHERS.
I KNOW IT; I SAW
TO IT MYSELF...!

THEY ARE **ALSO** WITHIN
AN INCH OF **DEATH**, CARLTON.

WE HAVE FACED
INTRUDERS BEFORE,
THREATS BEFORE, **ASSAULTS**
BEFORE. I HAVE ELIMINATED
ALL OF THEM, WAITING IN
THE BACKGROUND TO
STRIKE... AT THAT MOMENT
WHEN **YOUR NERVE** HAS
ULTIMATELY **FAILED**
YOU.

THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN
MAULED-- NOTHING MORE
THAN SHREDS OF **CARRION**
BY NOW...

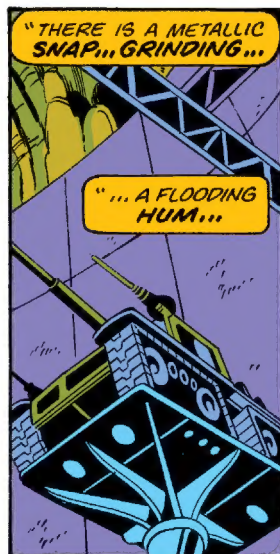
...AND YET THE
SCAN-SCREENS,
THE **MONITORS**, THE
ALARM SYSTEMS...
ALL INDICATE THAT THEY
HAVE SOMEHOW PENE-
TRATED THE **ARSENAL**!-
THEY'RE WITHIN AN
INCH OF DESTROYING
EVERYTHING!

THERE IS
NOTHING WRONG
WITH MY **NERVE**,
PAVANE. **THESE**
THREE ARE **DIFFERENT**.
THEY ARE **RUTHLESS**,
METHODOICAL... RECK-
LESSLY **EFFICIENT**.

THEY **MUST** BE
STOPPED.

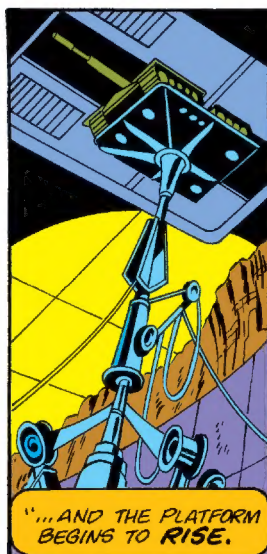
THEY WILL
BE STOPPED,
CARLTON...

I GIVE YOU MY
LOVE THAT THEY WILL
BE STOPPED.



"THERE IS A METALLIC
SNAP... GRINDING..."

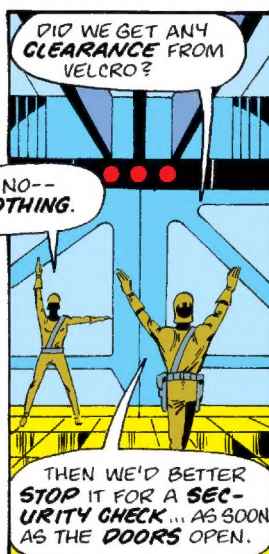
"... A FLOODING
HUM..."



"... AND THE PLATFORM
BEGINS TO **RISE**."



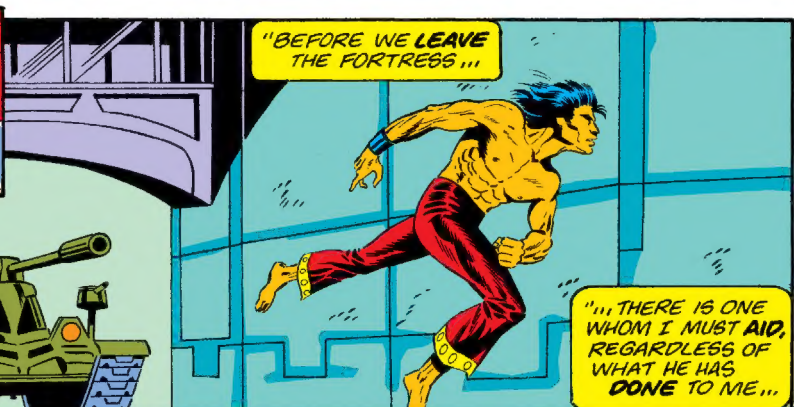
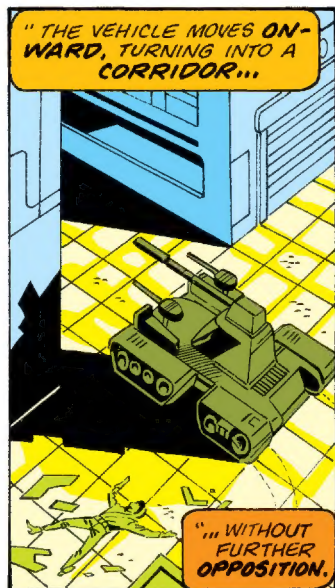
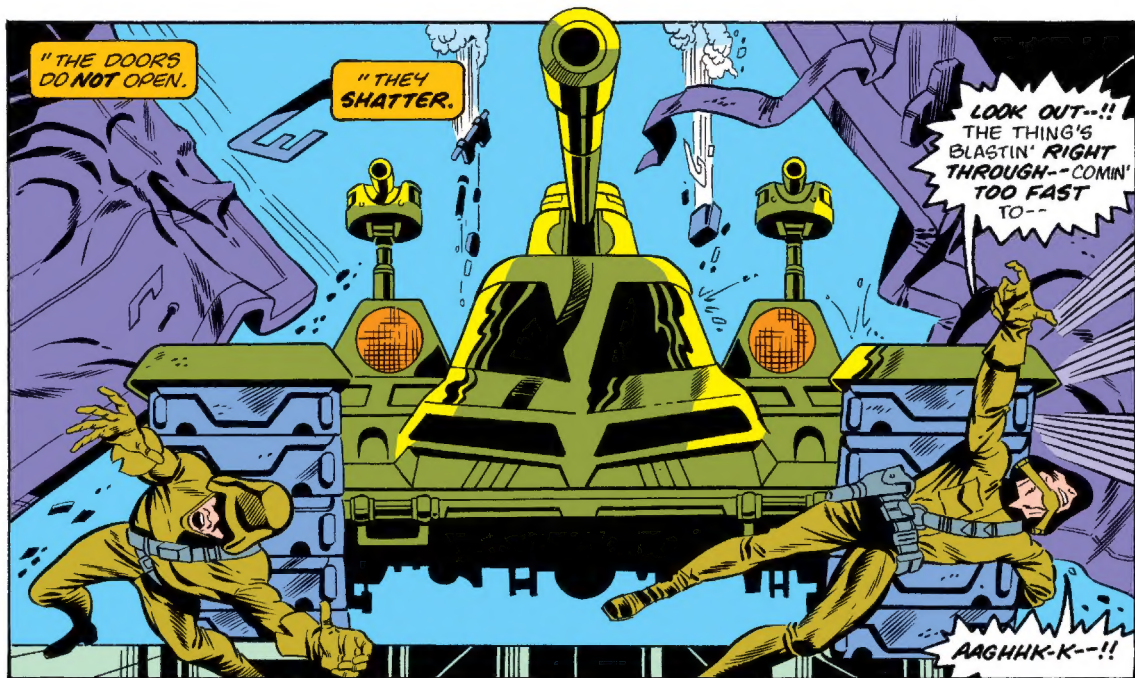
HEY--
THE **LIGHTS**
JUST FLASHED
ON. SOMETHING'S
COMING UP FROM
THE **ARSENAL**...

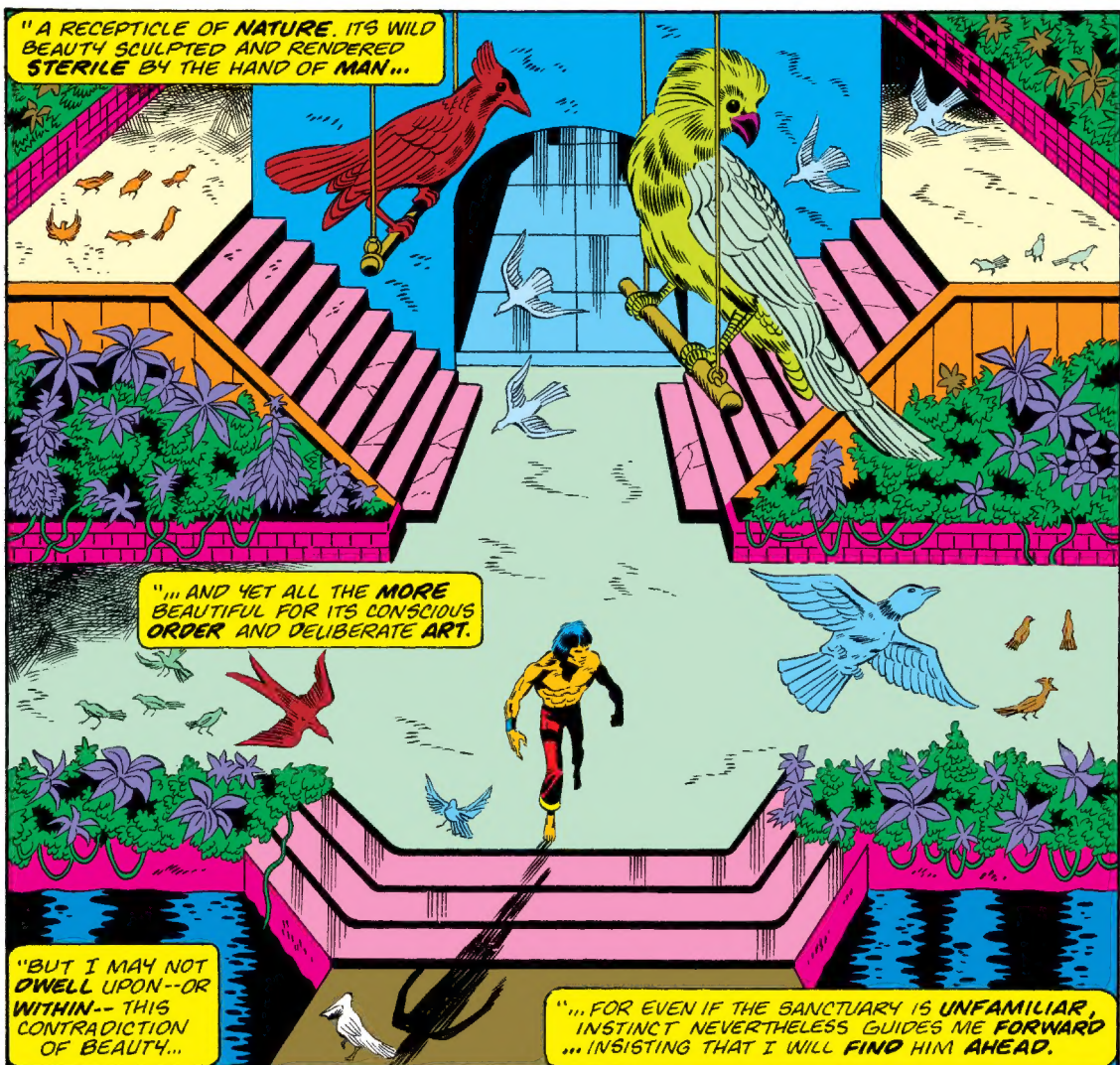
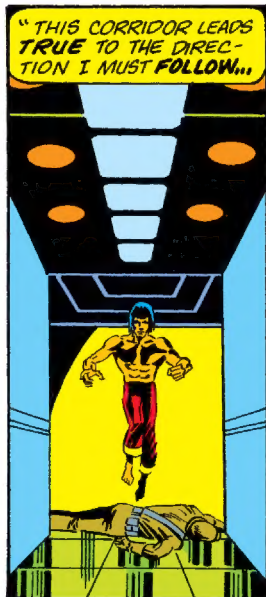
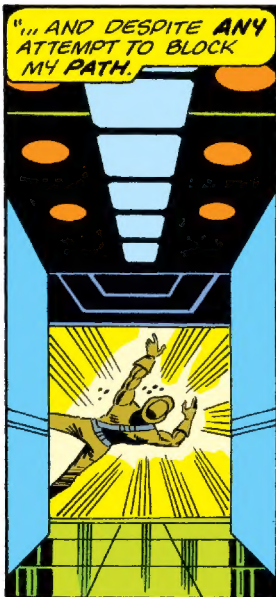


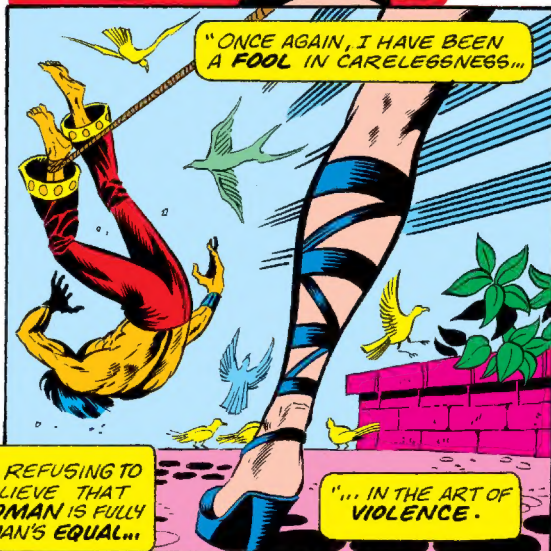
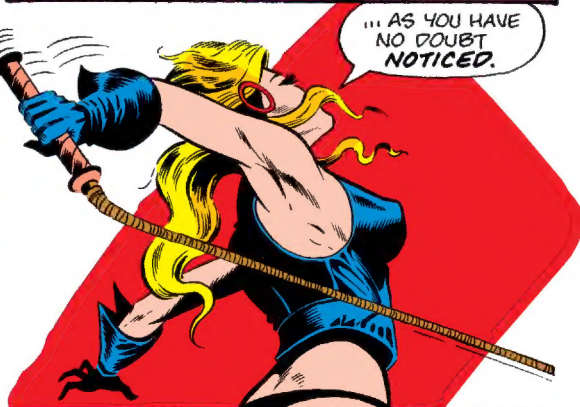
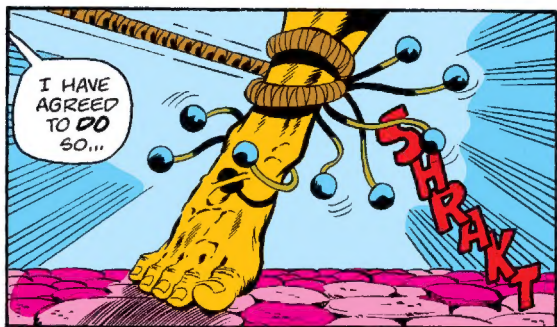
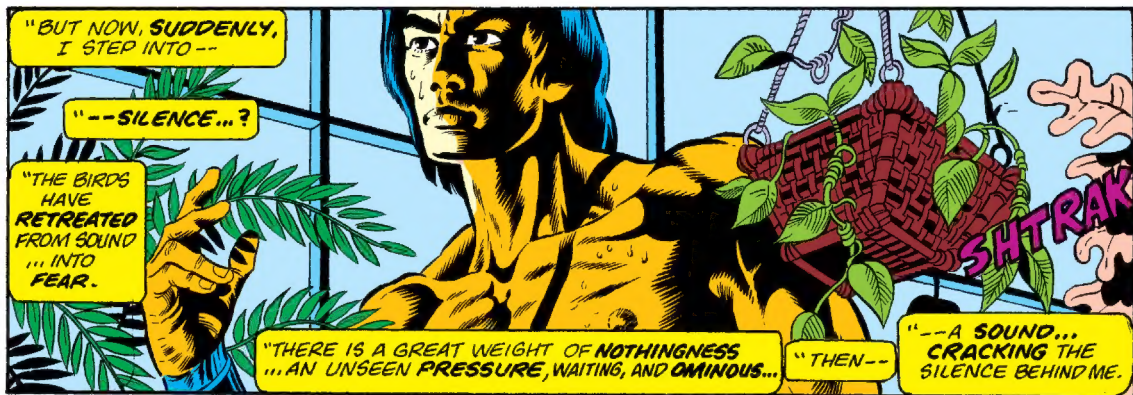
DID WE GET ANY
CLEARANCE FROM
VELCRO?

NO--
NOTHING.

THEN WE'D BETTER
STOP IT FOR A **SEC-
URITY CHECK**... AS SOON
AS THE **DOORS** OPEN.







"STILL THERE IS
LITTLE TIME..."

LEAVE THIS PLACE,
WOMAN, BEFORE YOUR
VIOLENCE FALLS PREY
TO A **GREATER**
DESTRUCTION.

WOMAN? MY NAME IS
PAVANE, SHANG-CHI.

IT IS A
NAME YOU'D
DO WELL TO
REMEMBER...

...FOR THE
REST OF YOUR
VERY BRIEF
LIFE!

"I HAVE
SUCCEEDED."

SWAP!

"--INTO A SWIFT BUT
BLOODLESS END TO
THIS WASTE OF TIME."

GREETINGS,
SHANG-CHI.

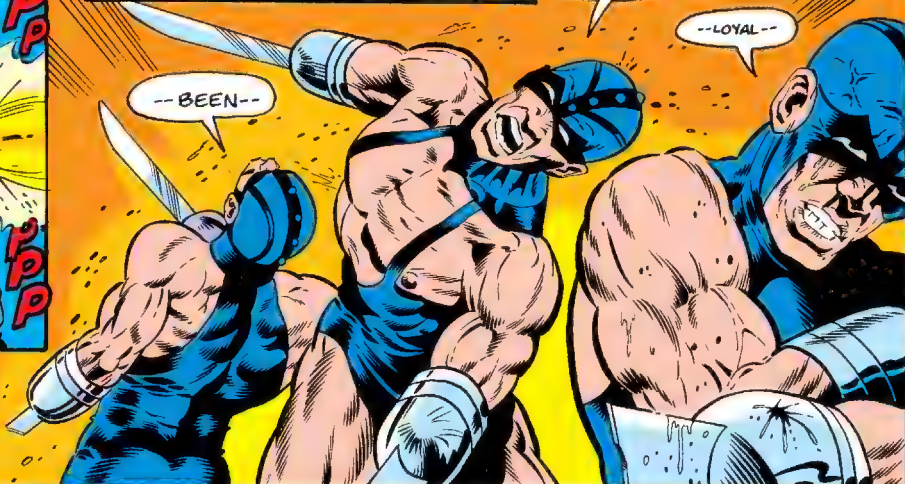
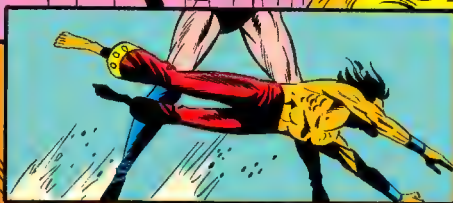
"WAIT. A SOUND,
BEHIND ME--"

I
BELIEVE
WE HAVE
UNFINISHED
BUSINESS...

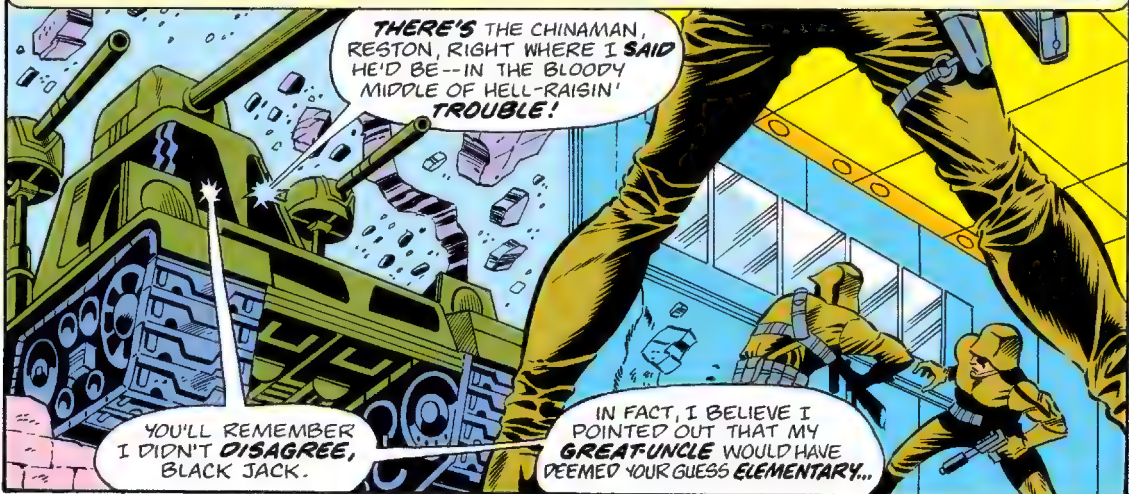
"HE HAS FREED HIMSELF, AND
ONCE AGAIN SEEKS MY DEATH..."

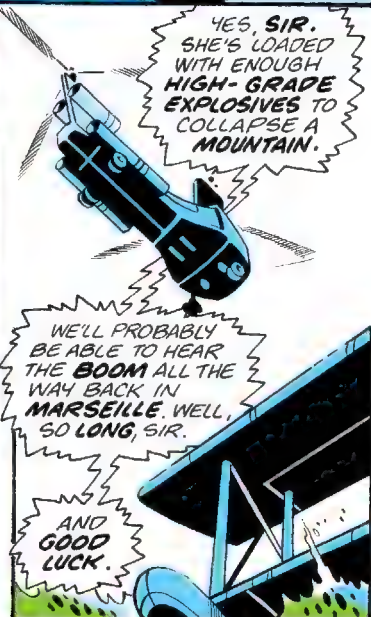
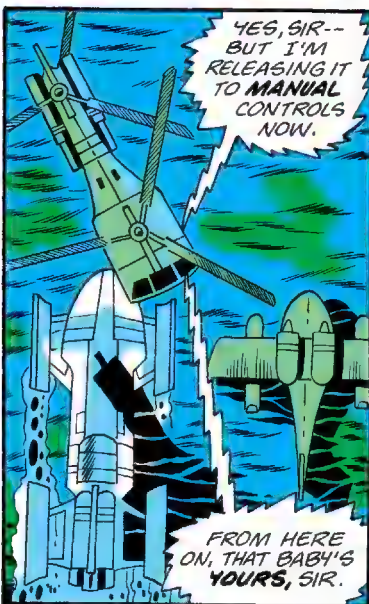
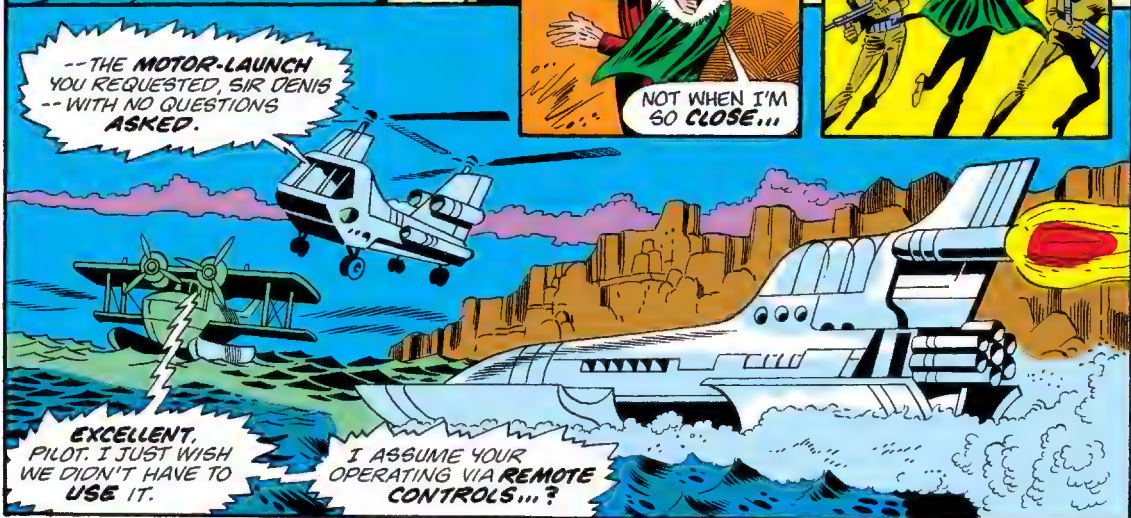
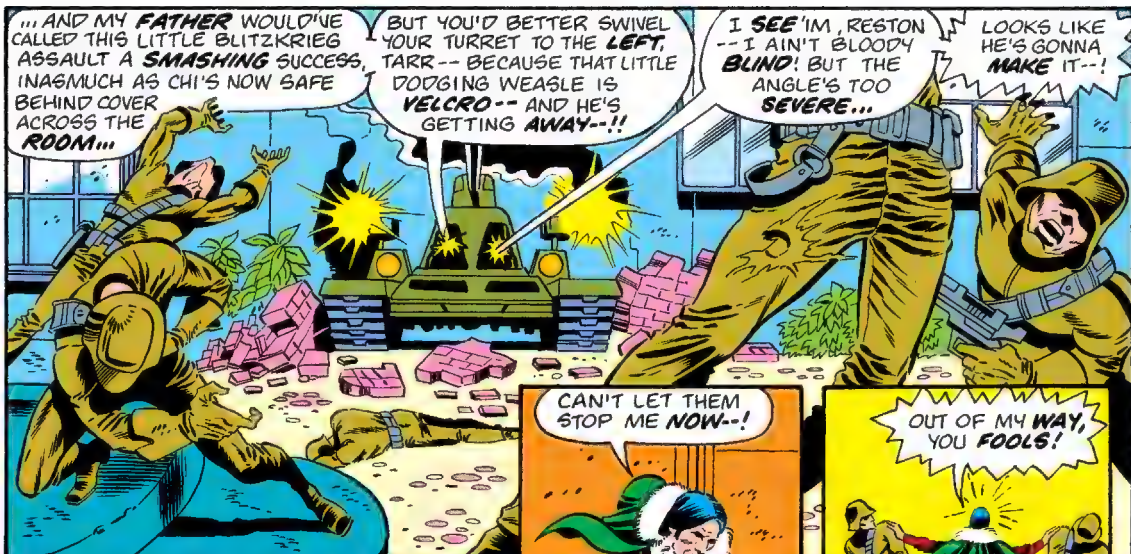
"SHE WILL AWAKEN IN TIME TO **ESCAPE**...
FREEING ME TO RESUME MY COURSE
TOWARD THE **SOUTH ENTRANCE**, AND TO
FREE **RAZOR-FIST**
FROM THE **STATUE***.
FOR, SHOULD HIS
BLADE REMAIN
EMBEDDED IN
THE **STONE**, HE
WILL REMAIN
HELPLESS TO--"

*SEE LAST ISSUE. --LEN.



"EVEN AS HE SPEAKS, RAZOR-FIST DIES LEARNING TOO LATE THAT VELCRO'S LOYALTY IS DEVOTED SOLELY TO DREAMS OF PERSONAL POWER. AND EVEN AS HE FALLS IN SLAIN WISDOM... THE WALL SHATTERS--"





"EVENTS MOVE TOO **RAPIDLY** NOW. WITH **VELCRO'S** ESCAPE, THE END RUSHES TO THE **BEGINNING**... CRUSHING THE SPACE **BETWEEN**. I CAN NO LONGER PLACE MY **TRUST** IN TIME..."



"...OR IN THE BELIEF THAT **PAVANE** WILL AWAKEN TO ESCAPE OF HER OWN WILL."

"I HAVE LAID HER IN A PLACE OF **SAFETY**..."



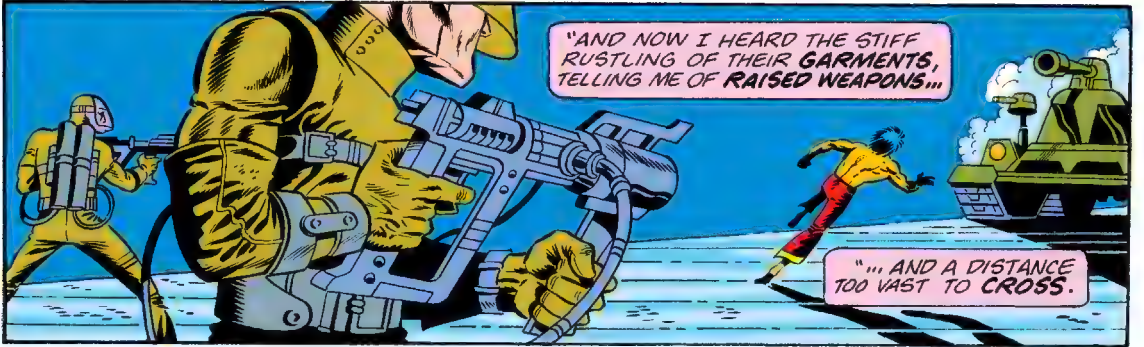
"BUT AS I HURRY TO **REJOIN** THE TANK WHICH NOW EMERGES FROM THE **FORTRESS** --

HURRY, CHI--!! BEHIND YOU--!!



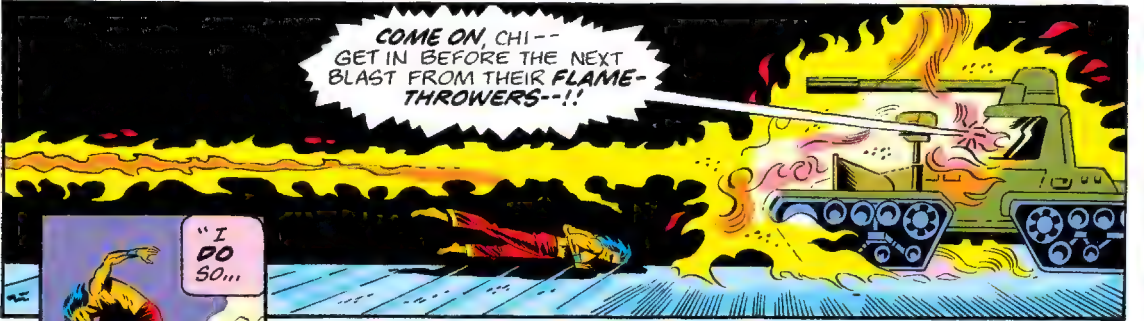
"I HAVE ALREADY **HEARD** THEM..."

"AND NOW I HEARD THE STIFF **RUSTLING** OF THEIR **GARMENTS**, TELLING ME OF **RAISED WEAPONS**..."



"... AND A DISTANCE TOO VAST TO **CROSS**."

COME ON, CHI--
GET IN BEFORE THE NEXT BLAST FROM THEIR **FLAME-THROWERS--!!**



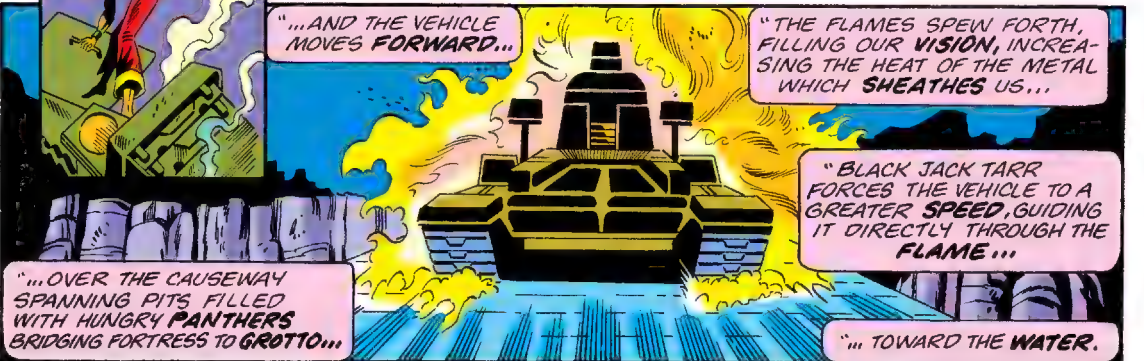
"I **DO** SO..."

"...AND THE VEHICLE MOVES **FORWARD**..."

"THE **FLAMES** SPEW FORTH, FILLING OUR **VISION**, INCREASING THE HEAT OF THE METAL WHICH **SHEATHES** US..."

"**BLACK JACK TARR** FORCES THE VEHICLE TO A GREATER **SPEED**, GUIDING IT DIRECTLY THROUGH THE **FLAME**..."

"...OVER THE CAUSEWAY SPANNING PITS FILLED WITH **HUNGRY PANTHERS** BRIDGING FORTRESS TO **GROTTO**..."



"... TOWARD THE **WATER**."



FORGET THE FLAME-THROWERS! THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!

NO-- IT'S NOT US THEY WANT-- IT'S THE GROTTO!

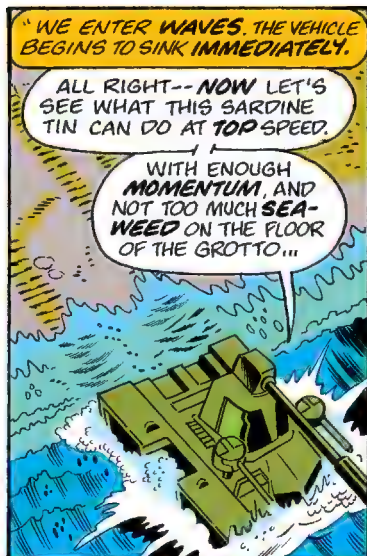
THEY'RE GOING TO DRIVE THAT THING STRAIGHT INTO THE WATER--!



WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE IF WE'RE IN THEIR--

YAAAAHHH!!

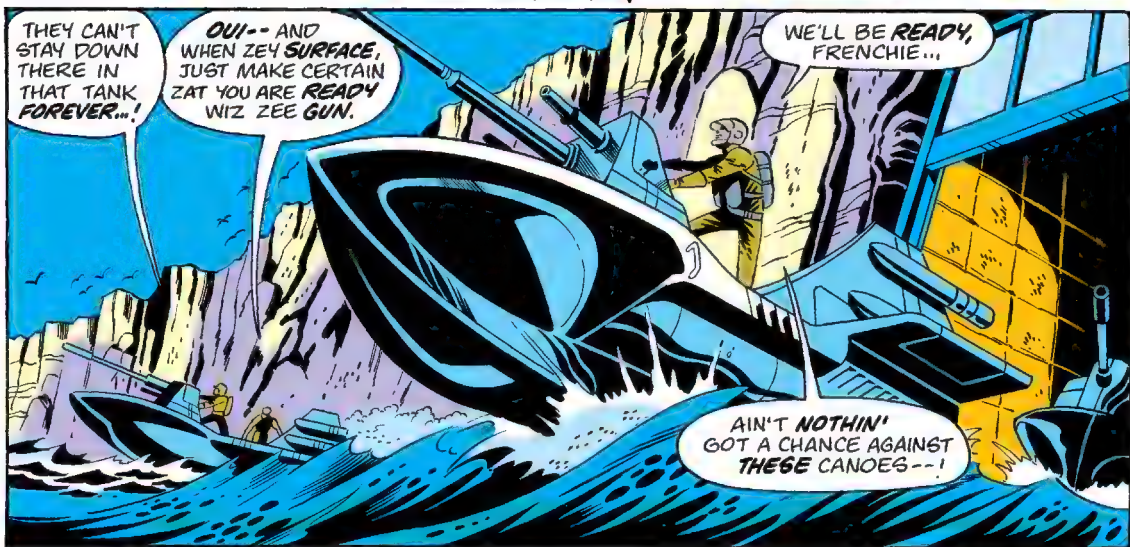
DIVE-- DIVE OUT OF THE WAY, FOOL!!



"WE ENTER WAVES. THE VEHICLE BEGINS TO SINK IMMEDIATELY."

ALL RIGHT-- NOW LET'S SEE WHAT THIS SARDINE TIN CAN DO AT TOP SPEED.

WITH ENOUGH MOMENTUM, AND NOT TOO MUCH SEA-WEED ON THE FLOOR OF THE GROTTO...

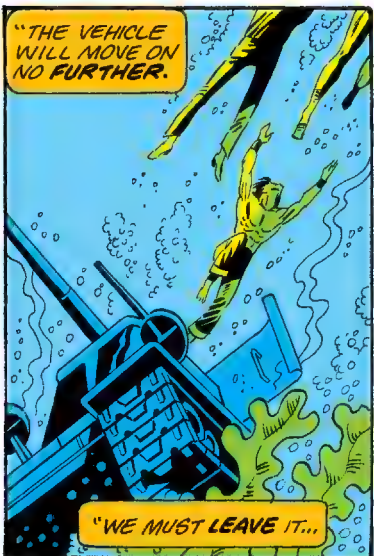


THEY CAN'T STAY DOWN THERE IN THAT TANK FOREVER...!

OUI-- AND WHEN ZEY SURFACE, JUST MAKE CERTAIN ZAT YOU ARE READY WIZ ZEE GUN.

WE'LL BE READY, FRENCHIE...

AIN'T NOTHIN' GOT A CHANCE AGAINST THESE CANOES---

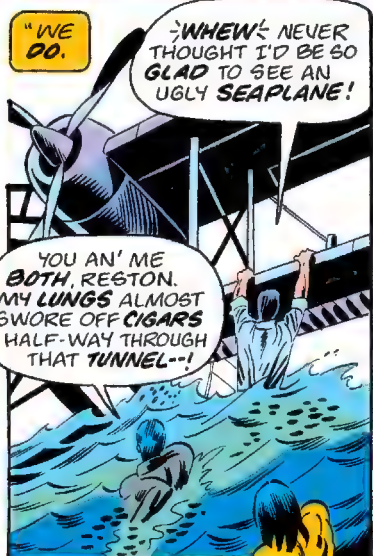


"THE VEHICLE WILL MOVE ON NO FURTHER."

"WE MUST LEAVE IT..."



"... AND SWIM THE REST OF THE DISTANCE TO THE UNDER WATER TUNNEL, HOPING WE WILL LIVE TO SEE IT CONNECT THIS GROTTO WITH THE GULF OF LIONS BEYOND."



"WE DO."

"WHEW! NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE SO GLAD TO SEE AN UGLY SEAPLANE!"

YOU AN' ME BOTH, RESTON. MY LUNGS ALMOST SWORE OFF CIGARS HALF-WAY THROUGH THAT TUNNEL--!

CAN'T LET THEM DESTROY MY **ARSENAL**-- I **WON'T** LET THEM-- NOT WHEN I'M SO CLOSE TO MAKING THE CONNECTION WITH **MOR-DILLO**-- WHEN WE'RE **BOTH** SO CLOSE!

TOGETHER, WE COULD HAVE **DONE** WHAT MAN HAS ALWAYS **DREAMED** OF DOING--

WE COULD HAVE **WON** WHERE **NAPOLÉON FAILED**--! WHERE **CAESAR** FAILED...

EVEN **HITLER**--!

-- YOU **KNEW** THE **HEROIN** WAS JUST A **FRONT**?! YOU **KNEW** **VELCRO** HAD A **NUCLEAR BASE** UNDER HIS **FORTRESS**--?!

LET'S JUST SAY WE **SUSPECTED**, OLD FRIEND... AND USED THIS **AGGSAULT** TO **CORROBORATE** OUR **SUSPICIONS**.

THAT'S WHY I'VE REQUESTED THE **MOTOR-LAUNCH** FILLED WITH **EXPLOSIVES**.

GOD **WILLING**, WE'LL BE ABLE TO **DESTROY** THE **ARSENAL** BEFORE **VELCRO** HAS A CHANCE TO **ARM** THE **NUCLEAR WARHEADS**.

PETRIE AND I HAVE ALREADY **ATTUNED** THE **LAUNCH** TO OUR **REMOTE-CONTROLS** HERE IN THE **SEAPLANE**, AND IF WE **HURRY**--

LOOKS LIKE **CHI'S** WAY **AHEAD** OF YOU, **SMITH**. HE **SLIPPED OUT** WHILE WE'VE BEEN TALKING -- AND THAT **SOUND'S GOT** TO BE THE **LAUNCH REVVING UP**--!

HE'S **RIGHT**, **NAYLAND**. **SHANG-CHI** HAS **TAKEN** THE **LAUNCH**. HE'S **OPERATING** IT **MANUALLY**--

"-- AND HE'S **HEADING** IT **STRAIGHT BACK** INTO THE **GROTTO** AT **POWER-DRIVE**!--"

WHAT IN **BLAZES** IS THAT--?!

WHO **CARES**?! JUST **SWERVE**-- AND LET THE **OTHERS** TAKE CARE OF IT!

"AHEAD OF ME..."

"... AND **SCATTER** LIKE **SHARKS**..."

STOP HIM -- **FIRE**--!!

WE ARE **FIRING**, YOU **IDIOT**--!!

-- FOR ALL THE **GOOD** IT'S **DOING** US!!

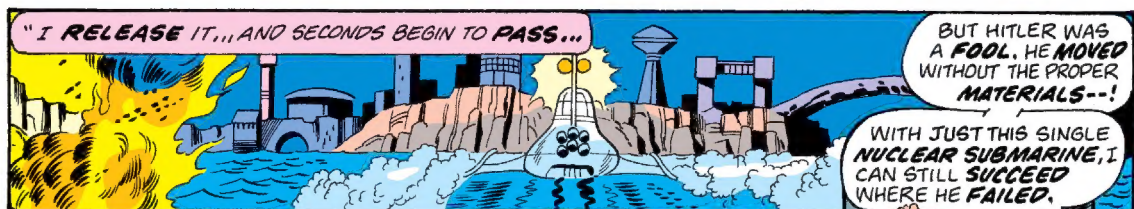
"AHEAD, THE **ALARMS** ARE STILL **SOUNDING** FROM THE **FORTRESS**, AS THEY **DID** WHEN WE **LEFT** IN THE **TANK**."

"THE **EVACUATION** HAS HAD MORE THAN **ENOUGH** TIME TO BE **COMPLETE**."



"AGAIN TIME BECOMES
MY ENEMY..."

"THE EXPLOSIVES ARE
WIRED TO A THIRTY-
SECOND DELAY
MECHANISM."



"I RELEASE IT... AND SECONDS BEGIN TO PASS..."

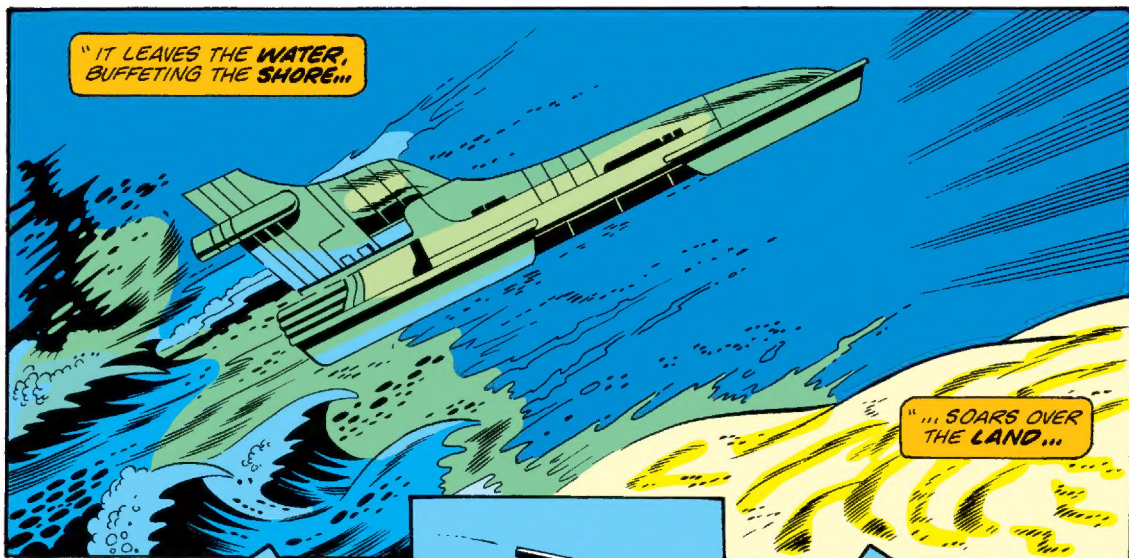
BUT HITLER WAS
A FOOL. HE MOVED
WITHOUT THE PROPER
MATERIALS--!

WITH JUST THIS SINGLE
NUCLEAR SUBMARINE, I
CAN STILL SUCCEED
WHERE HE FAILED.



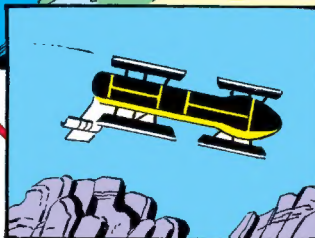
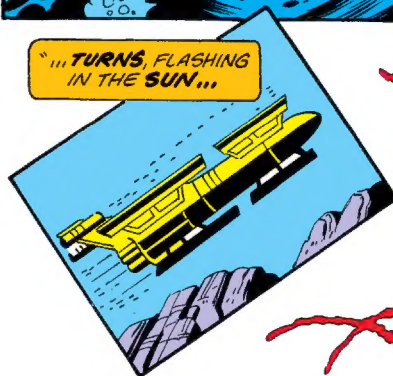
HE'S CRAZY!!
COMING STRAIGHT
AT US--
--AND HE'S
INCREASING
SPEED!!

"IT LEAVES THE **WATER**,
BUFFETING THE **SHORE...**"



"... SOARS OVER
THE **LAND...**"

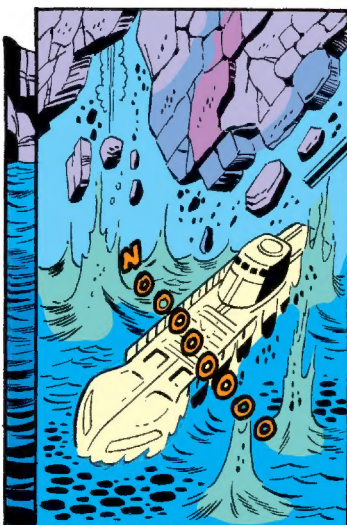
"... **TURNS**, FLASHING
IN THE **SUN...**"



"... TO ENTER
VELCRO'S **FORTRESS...**"



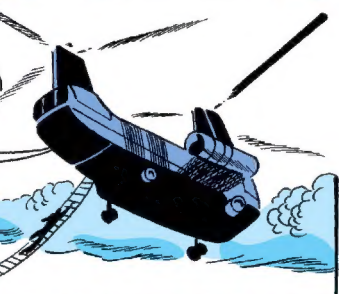
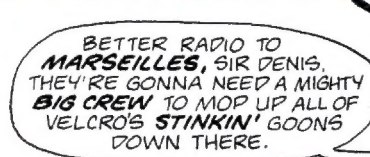
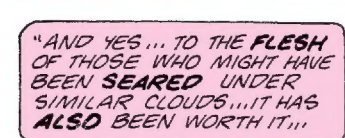
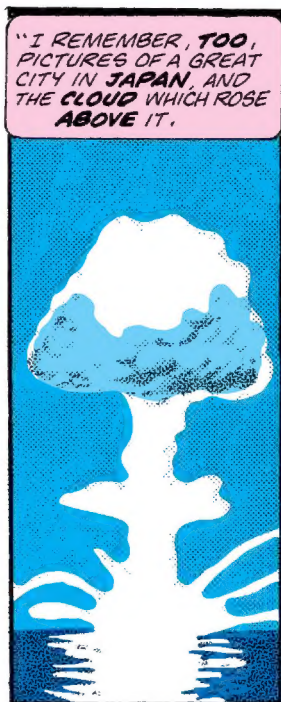
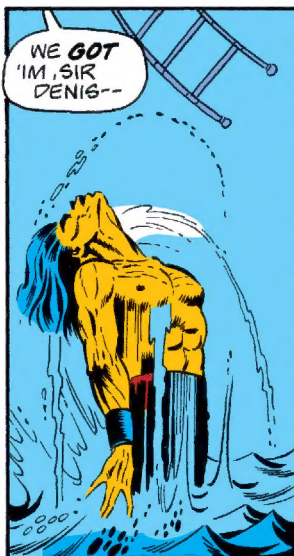
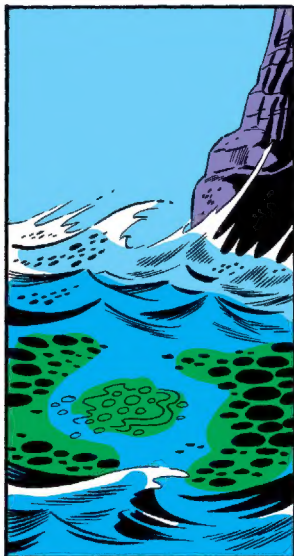
"... AS THE
REMAINING
SECONDS **PASS.**"



"THE **FORTRESS**, AND THE ROCK
WALL OF THE INNER **GROTTO...**THE
VAST STORES OF **NARCOTICS...**THE
SUBTERRANEAN ARSENAL OF WEAP-
ONRY AND **BOMBS...** SADLY, THE
BEAUTY OF SCULPTED **NATURE...**
AND THE DREAMS OF REWARD AND
WEALTH, OF POWER AND FALSE
GLORY. ALL HAVE **SHARED** IN THIS
SINGLE INSTANT. ALL ARE **DE-**
STROYED. BUT NO LIVES..."

"NO... **NEVER** LIFE... EVEN
THOUGH SOME MAY LONG
FOR **DEATH.**"





NEXT: THE DAGGERS OF DEATH IN BLACK STALK SHANG-CHI ABOARD A LUXURY LINER WRAPPED IN FOGBOUND NIGHT AND HOWLING STORM. A BROODINGLY DIFFERENT MYSTERY CALLED: **ISLAND IN AN ANGRY SEA**

MISSIVES TO THE MASTER!

1/6 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Doug and John,

"Confrontation," in MOKF #27 is the best story you have written for the series yet, Doug. We learned something about the most important supporting character in the book, Dr. Fu Manchu. We learned his philosophy of life, and just how twisted his way of thinking really is.

Fu Manchu said, "To me you are evil. To me, you are the villain...and I the hero." Doug, I think what Fu was saying is basically the same thing men like Hitler thought during the struggle for world conquest; there are many similarities between Hitler and Fu, and they make him about the best villain in the Marveldom Assembly.

Oh yes, the character Fah Lo Suee has great potential, and she is beautiful just like she's supposed to be.

And John, you are a great artist, but #27 wasn't your best work ever. Your work on THOR and CONAN, though, is excellent.

One last thing: On the last page, when Shang-Chi refused to kill his father, I think he did realize that no one man is responsible for all the evil in the world. I think that's the way he felt all along. Please let Shang-Chi fight other villains, too! And Make Mine Marvel.

Billy Matheny
1006 Lane Ave.
Titusville, FL 32780

Doug, Ron, Ed, Aubrey and Sal:

What's the problem with MASTER OF KUNG FU, gentlemen? Is it impossible to obtain a regular penciler for the strip—is that it? Really, all I ask is a bit of consistency from one issue to the next. Please?

And, from watching the parade of artists to fall under the misfortune of Sal Trapani's inks, I beg you—get someone else for the embellishment. Shang-Chi just doesn't look Oriental. He's changed so much from his original appearance that he now looks more like an American Indian than anything—which would be great, if that were his nationality, but it's not.

I really enjoyed those sly references to Steranko, CRAZY, etc. on page two—who slipped them in, Doug or one of the the pencilling trio? The art itself fluctuated a lot from page to page. For the most part, I can recognize Ron Wislon's stuff from a mile away—very basic, crude early-Romita type work. Hannigan and Bradford, I'm not so adept at recognizing, since I haven't really seen enough of their work yet to be able to pick up on individual traits.

I could recognize Doug's captions and word balloons throughout the story with no difficulty, however.

"A Small Spirit Slowly Shaped" (some alliteration there) was all right as a story, though not earthshaking or anything like that. Competent stuff. Doug seems to do a lot of that, but I like it when he really lets go and turns out a master piece, as he did most frequently in HAUNT OF HORROR.

Keep kickin'.

Tony Power
St. Michael, ND 58370

Energetic Ed Hannigan is the culprit who slipped in those surreptitious references, Tony. As for a regular artist, will you settle for Peerless Paul Gulacy? Cause by now you certainly must've noticed that he's back—and better than ever, as they say.

And we'll keep kickin'—if you do!

Marvel,

Funky, man! That Shadow-Stalker with the far-out head-gear is one cool dude—except that was pretty dishonest, showing him and Shang-Chi in combat on the cover, when they never fought inside. You've been doing too much of that, lately; too many misleading covers, and far too many idiotic word balloons and captions on them. The cover is to *look* at; the story is to *read*. You're getting your wires crossed!

And I think a lot's been lost with the original spirit of this strip. Englehart and Starlin established a direction which has been diffused, diluted into a too-standard comic-book approach. The top of page 23, where Shadow-Stalker shouts "Hiiiiii—" and Shang-Chi counters with "—Yaahhh!!" is just too corny for this down-home dude.

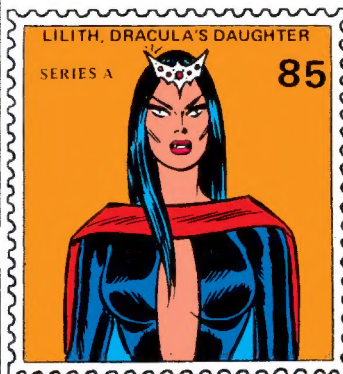
In the words of laid-back Lenny, come on boys, get it on!

Harold Aberdeen Harvey
333 Sorsar Circle
Carthol, MN

Okay, Harry, okay—points taken. But in the meanwhile why don't ya let us know what you *like*, as well as what you *dislike*, the better for us to check out just what direction we should take? That goes for *all* of you martial arts Marvelites!

But what say we take a walk on the wild side now, and promise you thrills, action and excitement galore like you ain't never seen before, right here in MASTER OF KUNG FU, next issue! And after a come-on like that, are you going to pass up the chance to check us out?

We didn't think so!



THIS IS IT! YOUR
MARVEL
VALUE
STAMP
FOR THIS ISSUE!
CLIP 'EM AND
COLLECT 'EM!